

# Gator Gazette



AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND → 917th WING, BARKSDALE AFB, LA → FEBRUARY 2002

## Patriot Buccaneer provides change in routine

**By Senior Airman Sherri Savant  
Wing Public Affairs**

The sound of a plane engine humming is heard in the far distance. It lands only temporarily for its final check. The reaction of those who await its arrival is quick. One last check is done, safety pins are pulled, bombs are armed and all systems are a go. So begins another training mission of the A-10.

During the January deployment of Operation Patriot Buccaneer 2002, at MacDill AFB, Fla., the A10s performed practice munitions drops with the use of the laser designator range at the Avon Park Air Force Range. The mission consisted of four planes flying twice a day for the first half of the deployment and five planes flying twice a day for the second half of the deployment.



PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN SHERRI SAVANT

**Maj. Edward Clary, 47 FS instructor pilot, performs a pre-flight check on the A-10 during Operation Patriot Buccaneer, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Fla.**



**Senior Airman Paul Benoist, 917th Security Forces, guards the A-10s.**

The purpose of the mission was to provide close air support training with the Army Ground Forward Air Controllers from the 15th Air Support Operations Squadron, Fort Stewart, Ga., and to practice night close air support and laser operations using the laser designator range.

Those participating in the deployment include members of the 47th Fighter Squadron, 917th Logistics Squadron, 917th Maintenance Squadron,

917th Wing and 917th Security Forces Squadron.

"This mission allows us to fly over unfamiliar ranges and drop practice ordnance," said Lt. Col. David B. Deaton, 47th Fighter Squadron instructor pilot. "We get to use different equipment like the laser designator which aids us in both day and night missions."

Munitions used on this deployment included BDU-33s, practice munitions that simulate the same free fall as a 500-pound Mark 82 bomb. Also used was signal rockets.

The laser designator on the ground, operated by the 15th ASOS, identified the targets for the pilot, according to Maj. Terry McClain, 47 FS project officer. The pave-penny pod on the airplane displayed a heads-up as to the location of the target. Night goggles allowed the pilots to see both friendly and ground targets on the nighttime missions.

"If you practice for a wartime environment on the same range or in the same shop using the same tools you're accustomed to every day, you become familiar with those surroundings," said Master Sgt. Stan Riddle, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of

Buccaneer continued on page 9

## Welcome home 93rd Bomb Squadron

It's great to have you true American heroes back home. I know it has been a long temporary duty assignment, but all of us here on the home front appreciate your sacrifices, hard work, and contributions to the war on terrorism.

We are extremely proud of each and every member of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Squadron team. Now it's time to take some well-deserved time off to reunite with your family and take care of personal business that may have fallen by the wayside during the past four months. Your country thanks you for a great job.

This coming year is obviously going to be a little different than we had planned: (1) our operational readiness inspection (ORI) has been postponed, thus we will not be conducting the numer-

ous practices and inspections that were scheduled – I know this really breaks your heart; (2) we are planning a Family Day on April 6; and (3) we will continue to support the war on terrorism as tasked.

We currently have over 300 members of the 917<sup>th</sup> mobilized. I am not sure what the future holds, but we stand ready to do whatever we can.



**Brig. Gen. Jack Ihle**

### Insights from the front

By Chaplain (Capt.) Ralph DeVaul

Hello from a deployed location.

I arrived to my deployed site on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 2001. For me, this was more than an Aerospace Expeditionary Forces deployment following 9-11. It was a spiritual journey.

I remember Christmas 1971 and 1972 at Kadena AB, Japan, where I, as a young "Sergeant", (E-4) served during "Linebacker 2." As I traveled from the airport to my location, after a 13-hour flight, I thought of those days when I was a young man, and was away from home for the first time. I am no longer looking through the eyes of a

twenty-year old, but I am the father of a twenty-year old.

One night while standing outside my office talking to a young Army sergeant, I asked him about fear for the mission ahead. He unashamedly admitted that he was not afraid for himself, but for those under his command. He himself could not have been more than 25 and was on his fifth campaign.

The Apostle Paul's words to Timothy are appropriate for this occasion: "Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe." Paul encourages Timo-

thy to be an example in word and conversation.

I leave my deployment with an important thought. Life is more than a physical or geographic journey. It is filled with many spiritual turns, valleys and peaks. Sometimes these nuances are completely out of our awareness.

As an Air Force Chaplain, I have the important task in peacetime as well as in wartime. My mission is to be an encouragement as well as a spiritual whetstone for those to come. Your part is to share your journey with those of us here to help. Growing up takes a lifetime. Enjoy the journey!



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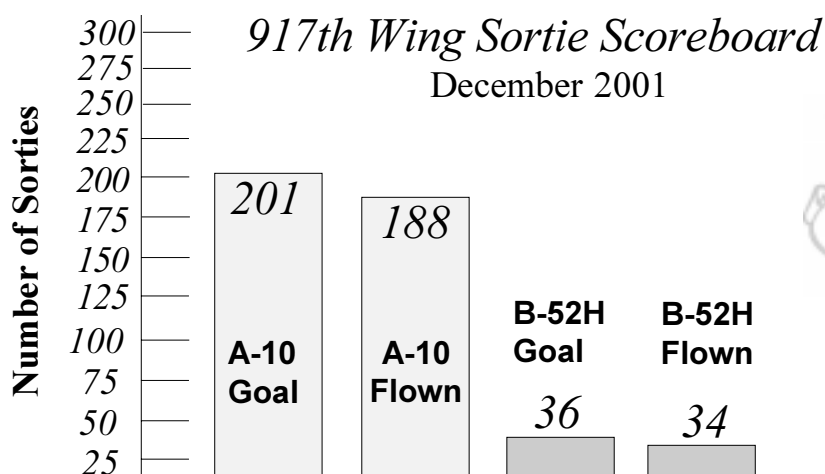
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**A-10 Mission Capable Rate 87.0%**  
**B-52H Mission Capable Rate 69.9%**

**AFRC Goal 75%**  
**AFRC Goal 65%**

# War changes everything

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio  
Wing Public Affairs

Changing a diaper and mopping the floor is not such a bad duty when it's compared to fighting a war. Active duty and reserve forces have experienced just how much things can change when war is declared.

Two security forces women had very different lives before their focus turned to defending the nation. One, a reservist called to active duty, was a full-time mom. The other was an active duty security forces specialist living a carefree, single life while working on a degree program.

"Before I was activated my life consisted of cleaning house and changing diapers," said Senior Airman Jessica, 917<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, who has an 18-month-old son. "Now I just hope to get 3 or 4 hours of sleep a night so I can make it through the next day." Jessica and her husband, who is an active duty service member, have been at Barksdale for two years. Before her activation, she was working on her license for home childcare. Then the call came and life drastically changed.

"It was a big adjustment," said Jessica. "My mom took my son for almost a month in the beginning." When he came back home, her son had to readjust to living with his parents.

"He would wake up in the middle of the night crying for my mother," said Jessica. "It took a while for him to realize that I was mommy." Even with the family together again, there is still the challenge of finding time to spend with them. Childcare is definitely another adjustment for the family, but a necessary choice.

"It's easier for me to do my job when I look at the people that are away from their family," said Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Myrna, 2<sup>nd</sup> Security Forces Squadron. "Of course my work hours increased, and I had to put off my college classes, but they really have it hard." Myrna entered the Air Force only a year ago and admits to learning a lot from the reserve sergeants who were activated from the 917<sup>th</sup> Wing.

"At first the attitude was bad after we were told that the reserve forces were going to work with us," said Myrna. "We expected them to get all the back office jobs, look pretty, and only work eight



Senior Airman Jessica, 917<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, exits a truck after she inspects it for entry into the North Gate.

hours a day. We thought it was going to be bad for us." Things didn't happen that way. The reservists started day one of their activation working side by side with the active duty.

"Some of these people have been in the military for 10-12 years. I've learned things from them that help me see what my future could be like," said Myrna. "They tell me about all the places they have been and the experience they have had during their military career." Her concept of the reserve has changed because she sees they do the same job.

"We still hear some under-the-breath comments about us being weekend warriors, but 99 percent of them are glad we are here," said Jessica. "We're helping relieve the stress." This is the Air Force's concept of "total force," and according to both women, it works.

It could be up to two years before Jessica is back to her diapers and cleaning or before Myrna starts hitting the books to finish her degree, but each will continue to lean on each other until that day comes.

## In the news.....

### Uniforms now allowed for CONUS travel

Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, authorized the wear of military uniforms for people traveling aboard commercial aircraft, rescinding the announcement made Sept. 21. The original announcement was a force protection measure directly related to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and the Pentagon. Wear of the uniform is not mandatory, but highly encouraged for all colonels and above and chief master sergeants on duty-related travel in the continental United States.

### Family day scheduled for April

The Wing Family Day and Commander's Cup Golf Tournament are scheduled for April 6. To sign up for the golf tournament, stop by the Public Affairs office.

For more information on the family day, contact Maj. Steve Powell at 456-9016. For the golf tournament, contact Master Sgt. Greg Steele at 456-8517.

### Firing Range requirements

Any person scheduled for firearms training on the UTA must report by 7:30 a.m. on the scheduled date.

In addition to being on time there are items that are mandatory to complete the training. One is the 522 Card, which is your weapons card. Second is an ink pen. The uniform of the day for firing is BDUs. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Mike Bankston at 456-9457.

### Stop-Loss makes exceptions

All reserve members (Maj. - Col. and all enlisted grades) with original mandatory separation dates and high-year-tenure dates from Feb. 1 through April 30, 2002, will be released on that particular date.

Mandatory separation and high-year-tenure dates starting May 1, 2002, will continue to be stop-lossed, and will be re-evaluated at the end of January 2002.

Members reaching their mandatory separation and high-year-tenure dates due to age will remain exempt from stop-loss.

## Air Force Reserve recruiters needed--apply within

By Tech Sgt. Diana Perusin  
Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force Reserve Command is looking for highly motivated individuals who are interested in becoming recruiters.

New Reserve recruiters are constantly being sought. "Approximately 17 percent of the recruiters are lost annually due to attrition," said Chief Master Sgt. Larry Woods, 917<sup>th</sup> Wing senior recruiter.

One may ask, "What's in it for me?" The fiscal perks--the benefit of extensive training and special pay bonuses. Full active duty pay and allowances, retirement after 20 years service, a \$375 per month special assignment pay, \$75 per

month expense account and reimbursement for certain out-of-pocket expenses associated with recruiting.

Applications for recruiter duty come from volunteers. The first step in the process is completing an application and having a one-on-one interview with the local senior recruiter who will give step-by-step instructions to the new potential recruiter.

Upon completion of recruiting school, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, the individual will be assigned to their first duty station.

Initial duty is a four-year active duty

### Council open for suggestions

The Unit Advisory Council has a link on the main 917<sup>th</sup> intranet site for personnel to make suggestions on how to improve work environments and quality of life issues within the Wing.

### Travel voucher needed from deployed personnel

Members on CED, AEF, or OCONUS orders must provide the Customer Service section a copy of their processed travel voucher. This must be done after finance makes a payment and has a travel voucher number assigned. This is important: (1) for proof of AOR - travel and locations; (2) documentation for foreign service on DD 214s; (3) for documentation to be included with Air Medal submissions; (4) VA credit for future civilian hires; (5) for documentation for any LODs that may have had to be accomplished; (6) PERSTEMPO; and (7) for tax exemptions.

## Officer Promotions for 2002

### Officer Promotion Boards 2002

<b>Feb. 11</b>	<b>to Maj.</b>	<b>for line and health professions</b>
<b>April 22</b>	<b>to Maj.</b>	<b>for jag and chaplains</b>
<b>April 22</b>	<b>to Capt.</b>	<b>for jag and chaplains</b>
<b>April 22</b>	<b>to Lt. Col.</b>	<b>for jag and chaplains</b>
<b>June 24</b>	<b>to Capt.</b>	<b>for line and health professions</b>
<b>June 24</b>	<b>to Lt. Col.</b>	<b>for line and health professions</b>
<b>Oct. 21</b>	<b>to Col.</b>	<b>for all</b>
<b>Officer Time-In-Grade (TIG) Criteria for Mandatory Promotion</b>		
<b>To Capt.</b>	<b>2 yrs TIG as 1Lt.</b>	
<b>To Maj.</b>	<b>7 yrs TIG as Capt. (4 yrs for PV)</b>	
<b>To Lt. Col.</b>	<b>7 yrs TIG as Maj. (4 yrs for PV)</b>	
<b>To Col.</b>	<b>3 yrs TIG as Lt. Col.</b>	

tour. Extensions are granted to recruiters who meet or exceed the highest standards of moral conduct, military appearance, integrity, and meet recruiting goals. Additional extensions can be granted to a total of 20 years of active duty service.

"The recruiter's schedule is very flexible...allowing the potential recruits a convenient time to meet," said Master Sgt. Don Copeland, 917<sup>th</sup> Wing Reserve Recruiter. "Be prepared to work long hours, weekends, and evenings."

Contact your local Air Force Reserve Recruiting office at 456-9182 if this sounds like the job for you.

# Reservists join 917th Wing

Twelve new reservists joined the 917th Wing.

They will attend the newcomers briefing and then join their respective squadrons.

## **917th Security Forces Squadron**

Senior Airman Christopher Simpson, Shreveport, La.

## **917th Medical Squadron**

Airman 1st Class Julia M. Norman, Bossier City, La.

Staff Sgt. Kevin D. Osby, Shreveport, La.  
Staff Sgt. Misty G. Willis, San Antonio, Texas

## **917th Logistic Support Squadron**

Senior Airman Anthony Falcon, Nacogdoches, Texas

Tech Sgt. Ilyasah M. Reid, Valdosta, Ga.

## **917th Maintenance Squadron**

Staff Sgt. Keith B. Castleberry, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Senior Airman Paul A. McCurdy, Balch Springs, Texas

Staff Sgt. Richard R. Twitty, Mount Olive, N.C.

## **93rd Bomb Squadron**

Staff Sgt. Randall R. Daniel, Haynesville, La.

## **307th RED HORSE**

Senior Airman Melonie L. Myers, Texarkana, Texas

## **47th Fighter Squadron**

Senior Airman Keith E. Hughes, Bossier City, La.



917th Wing Airman of the Year  
**Senior Airman Angela Lewis**  
917th Logistics Group



917th Wing NCO of the Year  
**Staff Sgt. Wendell Weeks**  
917th Communications Flight



Tech Sgt. Harold, 917th Mission Support Squadron, was promoted to master sergeant while on deployment overseas.

## *Walker assumes command of the 47th Fighter Squadron*



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA D'AURIZIO

Lt. Col. Edmund Walker assumes command of the 47FS during a ceremony in the A-10 hangar Jan. 4. He replaces Lt. Col. Patrick A. Cord, who will be assuming command of the 926th Fighter Wing Operations Group.



# Defense bill authorizes beefy pay hike, benefits

The largest military pay raise in 20 years along with new benefits for reservists are among the provisions of the fiscal year 2002 National Defense Authorization Act.

Signed into law Dec. 28 by President George W. Bush, the act authorizes across-the-board and targeted pay raises ranging from 5 to 10 percent with a minimum 6-percent pay hike for enlisted personnel and a minimum 5 percent for officers. Last year military personnel got an across the board raise of 3.7 percent in January with additional targeted raises in July.

The FY 2002 defense bill also approved personnel increases in three major categories in Air Force Reserve Command. Compared to last year, the authorized end-strength climbed from 74,300 to 74,700, the number of full-time reservists went from 1,336 to 1,437, and air reserve technicians jumped from 9,785 to 9,818.

Last year the Department of Defense and Office of Personnel Management agreed that the government should help federal employees pay for health care if they are called to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation. As a result, this year's bill permits federal agencies to pay the employee and government portions of Federal Employee Health Benefit Program premiums, so families of called-up reservists continue to receive affordable medical care.

Congress wanted to stimulate participation in funeral honors duty, so it extended to reservists the same rights, benefits and protections received for performing inactive-duty for training. Federal employees gained the option of using military leave to perform funeral duty as reservists, and retirees may serve as members of funeral honors details and receive payment.

Some benefits offered by defense bills are not immediate because DOD and Air Force must implement policies and programs before these benefits are delivered to service members. In some cases, Congress issues additional clarification in

later defense bills.

Each year Congress renews one-year extensions of bonuses and special pay. This year's extensions through Dec. 31, 2002, include:

- Special pay for health care professionals who serve in the Selected Reserve in critically short wartime specialties;

- Selected Reserve affiliation, enlistment and reenlistment bonuses;

- Special pay for enlisted members of the Selected Reserve assigned to certain high-priority units;

- Ready Reserve enlistment and reenlistment bonuses; and

- Prior-service enlistment bonus until Dec. 31, 2002.

New members of the Participating Individual Ready Reserve, which includes Air Force Academy liaison officers, will accrue two days' access to commissaries for each month's satisfactory participation in required training. Previously, these reservists had to complete a good year (a minimum of 50 points) toward retirement to qualify for commissary access.

Another perk allows federal employees of the executive branch, military members and their family members to retain for personal use promotional items received as a result of using travel or transportation services paid for by the executive branch.

Some proposed legislation benefiting reservists did not make it into this year's authorization act.

For example, one provision included in the House of Representative bill but not adopted in conference by the House and Senate would have entitled qualified reserve aviators to be paid the same amount of Aviation Career Incentive Pay as active-duty aviators with the same number of years of aviation service.

(AFRC News Service)



## New "Common Access Card" to be issued

**By Technical Sgt Diana L. Perusin  
Wing Public Affairs**

The Department of Defense began issuing a new multi-purpose card for DOD personnel. The new card is called the "Common Access Card", or Smart Card, and will take the place of the current military identification card. The card will eventually allow physical access to secure areas, permit entry into the Department's computer networks, and for email authentication. Other possible uses for the CAC are dining facility meal charging, deployment data, and the individual's training status.

The CAC uses cutting edge technology to reform the DOD's business processes to eliminate paper-based activities, ensure the security of its networks, and to enhance military

readiness. The card is the size of a standard credit card with a computer chip embedded in it. It has the capacity to read, write, and perform various operations on several thousand bytes of information.

One operation is the e-mail application which allows unclassified e-mail to be digitally signed and encrypted. Once a message has been composed, the user inserts their card into a special card reader installed on the computer, enters a personal password, and clicks on the icon for either encryption or digital signature. Once encrypted, only the intended recipient can decipher and read the message, effectively allowing two people to securely communicate.

The card is designed with a minimum amount of information to support its

identification, access, and management features and will enhance individual privacy in the DOD as computerized systems replace paper-based systems.

"The CAC will expire and need to be reissued every three years. There will no longer be indefinite ID cards issued", said TSGT Lenka Isaac, chief of customer service. "Only green ID card holders will switch to the CAC."

The CAC will become the standard identification card for approximately four million people affiliated with the DOD. Included in this total are active duty personnel, reservists, and DOD civilian personnel. Retired personnel and dependents will retain the original form of identification cards. The 917<sup>th</sup> Wing will convert to the CAC at an undetermined date.

# 2002 Reserve Pay for Four Drills

Years of Service

	Under 2	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 24	Over 26
O-7 <u>2</u>	795.52	849.56	849.56	855.76	887.72	912.04	940.16	968.24	996.36	1084.68	1159.32	1159.32	1159.32	1159.32	1165.16
O-6 <u>2</u>	589.60	647.72	690.24	690.24	692.88	722.52	726.48	726.48	750.48	840.76	883.60	926.44	950.80	975.48	1023.36
O-5 <u>2</u>	471.60	553.68	592.04	599.24	623.08	623.08	641.80	676.44	721.80	767.44	789.20	810.64	835.04	835.04	835.04
O-4 <u>2</u>	403.16	490.92	523.68	531.00	561.40	586.12	626.16	657.36	679.00	700.76	708.08	708.08	708.08	708.08	708.08
O-3 <u>2</u>	372.88	422.72	456.24	493.16	516.76	542.68	564.32	592.16	606.60	606.60	606.60	606.60	606.60	606.60	606.60
O-2 <u>2</u>	322.16	366.92	422.60	436.84	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88
O-1 <u>2</u>	279.68	291.08	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80
O-3E <u>2,3</u>			493.16	493.16	516.76	542.68	564.32	592.16	615.60	629.00	647.36	647.36	647.36	647.36	647.36
O-2E <u>2,3</u>			436.84	436.84	445.88	460.04	484.00	502.52	516.32	516.32	516.32	516.32	516.32	516.32	516.32
O-1E <u>2,3</u>			351.80	351.80	375.76	389.64	403.80	417.76	436.84	436.84	436.84	436.84	436.84	436.84	436.84
E-9 <u>1</u>						381.08	456.52	466.84	479.92	495.28	510.72	525.88	546.44	566.84	595.60
E-8 <u>1</u>						322.32	341.72	352.68	363.52	374.40	385.68	407.64	426.72	439.04	470.24
E-7 <u>1</u>	264.92	289.20	300.20	311.00	322.32	341.72	352.68	363.52	374.40	385.68	396.68	407.64	426.72	439.04	470.24
E-6 <u>1</u>	226.80	249.44	260.48	271.16	282.32	300.60	311.64	322.32	333.24	341.08	347.04	347.04	347.04	347.04	347.04
E-5 <u>1</u>	208.20	222.04	232.76	243.80	255.04	270.68	281.36	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44
E-4 <u>1</u>	192.48	202.36	213.28	224.04	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64
E-3 <u>1</u>	173.80	184.72	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80
E-2 <u>1</u>	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24
E-1>4 <u>1</u>	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40
E-1<4 <u>1</u>	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36

New pay chart effective Jan. 1. Normally, reservists receive credit for four drill pay periods during one weekend unit training assembly.

Notes: See following explanations for the underlined numbers located to the right of the various pay grade designations in column one.

1. While serving as JCS/Vice JCS, CNO, CMC, Army/Air Force CS, basic pay is \$13,598.10 (see note 2).

2. Basic pay for an O-7 to O-10 is limited by Level III of the Executive Schedule, which is \$11,516.70. Basic pay for O-6 and below is limited by Level V of the Executive Schedule, which is \$10,133.40.

3. Applicable to O-1 to O-3 with at least 4 years and 1 day of active duty as a warrant officer and/or enlisted member.

## Airmen volunteer to show the way

Photo and Story by Senior Airman Shannon Collins  
Wing Public Affairs

More than 80 Reserve and active-duty airmen volunteered to usher, to show people to their seats, during Shreveport's Mainstay Independence Bowl Jan. 27.

Each year the airmen volunteer to help the local community.

"It helps to bond the active and reserve people, and the military and civilian communities together," said Tech. Sgt. Richard Taliaferro, 917<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, who has volunteered for the past four years. "I enjoy helping the community."

"If you're primarily volunteering for monetary reasons, the quality of service would be degraded. If you're volunteering without regard to incentives, you would be more willing to put all your effort into it. Volunteerism is important for strong community relationships," said active-duty airman and first-time bowl volunteer Tech. Sgt. David Thomas, Det. 5, 372<sup>nd</sup> Training Squadron.

While the airmen were showing fans to their seats, Eighth Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Tom Keck and 2d Bomb Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Curt Bedke participated in the coin toss to begin the game.

The Barksdale Honor Guard presented a cordon of swords as New York City policeman Paul Rodriguez sang the National Anthem.

During half time, Rodriguez sang "God Bless America" while

the honor guard raised a flag that was flown over Afghanistan. The ushering airmen appreciated the gesture.

"I felt patriotic and proud to be an American," said Taliaferro.

As they raised the flag, "I had goose bumps. I'm proud to be part of that icon – the red, white and blue flag," said Thomas.

"It's great to know that people appreciate what we do."



**Tech. Sgt. Richard Taliaferro, 917th Maintenance Squadron, shows an Alabama fan to his seat during Shreveport's Independence Bowl. More than 80 Reserve and active-duty airmen volunteered at the annual event Jan. 27.**

## The African American Legacy: Contributions and Service in America's Defense

**By Capt. Janette Williams-Smith  
Wing Military Equal Opportunity**

The 2002 Black History Month theme is "The African American Legacy: Contributions and Service in America's Defense."

As we live each day with constant reminders of Sept. 11, let us remind ourselves of a motto by Carter G. Woodson, who established Black History Month, "It is never too late to learn." This motto brings hope to Americans.

It helps to learn about the achievements of our great Black Americans, past and present.

The U.S. military provides a wealth of success stories of African Americans, who have contributed to the defense of freedom throughout our country's history.

The following are a few African Americans who have made significant contributions to the military:

-Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., became the first black general in the U.S. Army. After serving as a volunteer in the Spanish American War (1898), Davis enlisted as a private in the 9th Cavalry of the U.S. Army. He rose to Sgt. Maj. within two years and earned a commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in 1901. He rose slowly through the ranks, becoming the first black Col. in the army in 1930. In 1940 he was promoted to Brig. Gen. by Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

-The Tuskegee Airmen were black servicemen of the U.S. Army Air Forces, who trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Ala., during World War II. They constituted the first African American flying unit in the U.S. military. They were noted as the Army Air Forces' only escort group who did not lose a bomber to enemy planes.

-Daniel ("Chappie") James, Jr., was

one of the Tuskegee airmen. Chappie won his wings and a commission in 1943 but did not see combat during World War II. After the war, James quickly earned a reputation as an outstanding fighter pilot. In Korea he flew 100 combat missions. In 1965, during Vietnam, he was promoted to full Col. He was the first black in American history to become a four-star Gen.

-Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff (1989-93), the first black officer to hold the highest military post in the United States, played a leading role in planning the invasion of Panama (1989), and the Desert Shield/ Storm operations of the Persian Gulf crisis.

February (National Black History Month) should serve as an excellent springboard into the pursuit of knowledge.





**Tech Sgt. Bonnie Reeves, 47 FS A-10 crew chief, de-swags a travel pod on an A-10.**



**Tech Sgt. Andy Beiger, 917th munition systems mechanic, inserts a cotter pin through the striker plate on a BDU-33 practice bomb .**

### Buccaneer continued from page 1

plans and scheduling for the deployment. "This mission exposes us to environments not seen every day."

The 917th Security Forces Squadron provided security for the A-10s around the clock, working in 12-hour shifts.

"This type of mission keeps our skills up to the level they need to be in order to provide the kind of protection needed," said Senior Airman Paul Benoist, 917 SFS. "It's a way of measuring our skills against the level of training we're supposed to have."

"This mission provides us the opportunity to complete core tasks," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Bowman, member of 917th SFS.

"When we go out and fly with students, we teach them what they need to know to be mission ready," said McClain. "This mission allows us to sharpen the edge of our blade, to work with GFACS and ASOS, and to do something we don't do at Barksdale."

Congratulations to Command Chief Master Sgt. Jack Skaggs and Senior Airman Joshua Wendt, aerospace ground equipment mechanic, for their victory in the MacDill Cup Golf Tournament.

**Tech Sgt. Floyd Williams, 47th Fighter Squadron weapons loader, installs a BDU-33 bomb onto the triple ejector rack of an A-10.**



## Voices: What is the most memorable thing you have ever done for your loved one on Valentine's Day?



**Master Sgt. Candy Green**  
47th Fighter Squadron

"I gave my children chocolate roses."



**Airman 1st Class Richard Hourican**  
917th Maintenance Squadron

"I got her a lot of little things one year. It meant a lot."



**Airman 1st Class Michael Henry**  
917th Security Forces Squadron

"I gave her a rose. It was not expensive, but very meaningful."

## *Some make it home in time*

By Senior Airman Sherri Savant  
Wing Public Affairs

Some get flowers, and others get chocolate candy. It's a day of giving and receiving, of expressing one's love for another.

For many in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Squadron, this Valentine's Day will prove to be extra special. After being deployed, away from loved ones for quite some time, they will be reunited just in time to celebrate the holiday.

All holidays are created for a reason. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Christ. On the fourth of July, we celebrate America's independence. Valentine's Day was also created for a reason.

The history of Valentine's Day — and its patron saint — is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition.

According to one legend, Saint Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself.

While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl — who may have been his jailor's daughter — who visited him during his

confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today.

Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure.

It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Many of our heroes who will be returning from their deployment have also written many letters home to loved ones, expressing their feelings of deep concern and affection for those left behind. Most of those letters probably end with a 'With love' or 'All my love', much like Valentine's letters.

By the middle of the eighteenth century, it was common for friends and lovers in all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes. By the end of the century, printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology.

Hopefully the returned troops will not be tired of writing to that special someone. And all the promises they made for

this day will be remembered and fulfilled.

Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings.

According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentine cards are sent each year, only second to Christmas when an estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent.

This does nto

Approximately 85 percent of all valentines are purchased by women.

So, do a little more for your loved one this Valentine's Day. Buy him or her something special. Special does not always mean expensive, it can also be those few words whispered at the right moment.

They are luckier than some, from the 917th Wing, who are still deployed to different operating areas. This may actually contribute to setting a new record above the average estimated one billion cards that are mailed during Valentine's Day.

# 917th Wing Training Schedule

February 2-3, 2002

Time	Event	Location
<b>Saturday</b>		
0600	UTA prayer breakfast	Red River Inn Dining
0630-0700	Sign-in	Assigned unit
0700-1200	Immunizations	Base hospital, 1st floor
0700	Wing staff meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0700	Intro -- all newcomers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0730	Long & Short fly physicals	Flight surgeon office
0730-1000	Body fat measurement	Base hospital
0800	Physicals (non-fly)	Base hospital foyer
0800	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0900-1000, 1300-1400	Yellow fever shots	Base hospital
0900	Anti-terrorism training	Bldg. 6803, Rm 227
0930, 1030 & 1330	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17
1000	Unit deployment managers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1000	First sergeants' meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1100 - 1200	Praise Team rehearsal	MPF Auditorium
1200	Flightline drivers training	Bldg. 6825, Rm. 243
1300	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
<b>1550-1615</b>	<b>Sign-out 1550--MS 1600--CES, MSS, WG 1610--LG</b>	
<b>Sunday</b>		
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned Unit
0730	Information Management Training	Bldg. 4238, STARBASE
0730	Human Relations	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0800	Initial Warfare (appointment only)	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 329
0800	Career advisor training	Bldg. 6815, T-Net
0800	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0830	Substance Abuse	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0900	Catholic Mass	Base Chapel 2
0900	Unit advisory council	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0945	EO First Duty Station Part 1	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
1000-1030	Protestant services	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1030	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17
1230	EOC testing	Bldg. 4314, 3rd floor
1300	EO First Duty Station Part 2	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
1300	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
1430	SORTS meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1515	47th Commander's Call	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
<b>1550-1615</b>	<b>Sign-out 1550--MS 1600--CES, MSS, WG 1610--LG</b>	

## Know anyone who is looking for a recruiter?

### Barksdale AFB, La.

Master Sgt. Joe Menna  
Master Sgt. Don Copeland  
Tech. Sgt. Gary Johnson  
1-800-241-4071

### Monroe, La.

318-323-1898

### Texarkana, Texas

Staff Sgt. Matt Lucas  
903-223-7030

### Shreveport, La.

Master Sgt. Ellen Shaheed  
318-683-0331

### Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Tech. Sgt. TeNeuss Land  
501-987-7188

### Mesquite/Tyler, Texas

Tech. Sgt. Clark Fitzpatrick  
972-681-6384/903-534-8618

If you are interested in becoming a recruiter, call Chief Master Sgt. Larry Woods, 917th Wing Recruiting at 318-456-9751.

## SERVICES

### **Military Personnel Flight**

Bldg. 6803, Room 140, ext. 9205

#### **Saturday**

7 - 11 a.m. - Newcomers in-processing.  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)

#### **Sunday**

7 - 8 a.m. - Closed for training.  
8 a.m. - 2 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)  
2:30 - 4 p.m. - Closed for training.

#### **Monday - Friday**

7 a.m. - 4 p.m. All service

#### **Friday before the UTA**

7 a.m. - 6 p.m. All service

**NOTE: Customer Service functions include in & out processing, ID cards, DEERS, DD93s, SGLI, Vehicle Decals, Record Reviews, etc.**

### **Base Billeting**

Bldg. 5155, 456-3091/3092

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week (reservations required).

### **Chaplain**

Bldg. 6803, Room 239, 456-9179

Friday & Saturday - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### **Red River Dining Hall**

Bldg. 4631

Breakfast - 5:30 - 6:30 a.m.

Lunch MS - 11 - 1 47FS - 11:45  
WG - 11 MSS - 11:45 93 BS - 11:15  
CES - noon SFS - 12:15

**NOTE: You must show ID card, newcomer's letter or DD form 1172.**

### **Family Readiness**

Bldg. 4713

Saturday & Sunday - 8 - 11 a.m.

### **Military drivers license**

Military drivers license issue is available on the main UTA in Bldg. 6825, Rm. 240. Issue hours:  
Saturday & Sunday noon - 2 p.m.

### **Lodging**

For information on official or space "A" lodging call 1-888-AF-LODGE. Once the automated system answers, key in the first three letters of the base you are trying to reach.

### **Military Pay**

Main UTA Schedule

Sat. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### **Gov. Credit Card Service**

Bldg. 6803, Room 203, 456-9546

Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Main UTA - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Saturday only)

### **Military clothing issue**

Wednesday 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Main UTA Saturday 10 a.m. - noon and  
1 - 3 p.m.

## 93rd Bomb Squadron reunites with families



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA D'AURIZIO



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN SHERRI SAVANT



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA D'AURIZIO

**Top:** Tech. Sgt. Johnnie and his family reunite at Barksdale on Jan. 21, during a homecoming of deployed personnel who had spend the past few months in the forward operating area. **Top Left:** Families and friends wait outside of Hoban Hall for returning airmen as they exit the aircraft. **Bottom Left:** Tech. Sgt. Brad greets his co-worker, Master Sgt. Darren, home after his long flight.

### UTA Schedule

#### Main

Feb. 2-3, 2002  
Mar. 2-3  
April 6-7  
May 4-5  
June 8-9  
July 13-14  
Aug. 3-4  
Sept. 7-8  
Oct. 5-6  
Nov. 2-3  
Dec. 7-8

#### Alternate

Feb. 9-10, 2002  
Mar. 16-17  
April 20-21  
May 18-19  
No alternate  
July 20-21  
August 17-18  
Sept. 21-22  
Oct. 19-20  
Nov. 16-17  
No alternate

917th Wing  
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